

I CLAIM:

1. A blade guard comprising an elongated member of resilient material having a longitudinal axis, the member having a portion of an outer surface extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and spaced therefrom, an elongated slit defined in the member including slit walls defined by the resilient material, the slit extending in a plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis, whereby the member is adapted to engage a blade of a knife within the slit of the member and the resilience of the material of the slit walls is sufficient for the member to be held on the blade so as to cover a portion of a cutting edge of the blade.
2. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the slit has an open end and a closed end located opposite the open end.
3. A blade guard according to claim 2, wherein the slit has a cavity located at the closed end.
4. A blade guard according to claim 3, wherein the cavity is hook-shaped and adapted to engage a tip of the blade therein.
5. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the resilient material is cork-like.
6. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the resilient material is cork.

7. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the resilient material is low-density polyethylene.
8. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the elongated member is flexible.
9. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the longitudinal axis of the member defines a curved path within said plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis, such that the member has an arched resting shape.
10. A blade guard according to claim 9, wherein tension resulting from conforming the arched resting shape of the member of resilient material to fit onto the blade, additionally helps to hold the member thereon.
11. A blade guard according to claim 1, wherein the member is of a variable length.
12. A blade guard according to claim 11, wherein the member is made up of two members, a first base member and a second interchangeable member.
13. A blade guard according to claim 12, wherein the first member is of a length adapted to receive a blade of a minimum length, and the second member provides additional guard length as required.
14. A blade guard according to claim 13, wherein each member has a joint face, such that the joint face of the second member abuts the joint face of the first member such that the slits of said first and second

members are aligned and adapted to receive a blade having a cutting edge, the length of said second member chosen such that the total length of the first and second members covers the cutting edge of the blade.

15. A blade guard according to claim 14, wherein a pin and socket attachment connects the first and second members together.
16. A blade guard comprising two elongated flexible members of resilient material having a common longitudinal axis, the members abutted end to end and having a portion of an outer surface extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and spaced therefrom, each having an elongated slit defined by the resilient material, the slit extending in a plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis, whereby the slits of each member are coextensive therewith and adapted to engage a knife blade, the resilience of the material of the slit walls being sufficient for the members to be held on the blade so as to cover a cutting edge of the blade.
17. A blade guard according to claim 16, wherein the two members are retained together by a pin and socket plug connection.
18. A blade guard according to claim 16, wherein the longitudinal axis of the members defines a curved path within said plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel

to the longitudinal axis, such that the member has a
arched resting shape.

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